

April 15, 2003

Dear Magnolia Resident:

I have decided not to pursue a Magnolia bridge replacement plan that includes the shoreline alternative, known as Alignment B, and have directed the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to no longer consider it. It is clear that the aging Magnolia bridge must be replaced, but not at the cost of our precious shoreline.

Alignment B proposed a road along the base of Magnolia Bluff that entered the community by way of 32nd Avenue West and it was determined that it was not a viable option because it violated the City's own shoreline policies. By removing Alignment B from consideration, the city will preserve existing shoreline which is a limited resource in Seattle. The other three alternatives still appear to be feasible at this time and the City will move forward to determine the most appropriate alignment. The alignment that is chosen will be a bridge that will provide better access and plays a role in the future development in the Interbay area.

The Magnolia community has been very engaged in the selection of a replacement for the Magnolia Bridge and there are still many more opportunities to get involved. The City will continue its open public involvement process during the EIS development. A meeting is planned for mid-May to receive comments on what issues need to be studied in the EIS. Watch for notices giving the time and place for this important meeting.

Thank you for your active participation in replacing the vulnerable Magnolia Bridge. I appreciate the feedback the Magnolia Community has offered and I encourage you to continue providing input to the Design Team. Together, we'll move forward to build a bridge that enhances the neighborhood and helps revitalize Seattle's economy, all while protecting Magnolia's shoreline.

Sincerely,

GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle